



May 14, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington D.C. 20590

Re: PhilaPort Surface Streets Improvement Planning

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, which represents 600,000 employees in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, I am writing to express support for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) ***Surface Streets Improvements Planning*** project.

PhilaPort is requesting \$1.2 million in federal grant funding to provide preliminary engineering design services and environmental clearance for improvements to the street network serving the Port of Philadelphia, which will enhance the connectivity of port facilities and reduce travel times to Interstates I-95 and I-76. The project will improve the efficiency of port operations, allowing for an expansion of capacity to support planned growth, particularly at the Packer Avenue and Southport Marine Terminals.

PhilaPort has recently invested in infrastructure improvements at the Packer Avenue and Southport Marine Terminals to expand capacity and meet increasing market demand. The Port anticipates the volume of auto cargo to double within the next 10 years and container volumes to double within the next 15 years. The surface transportation network serving the Port is in need of improvement to enhance access to and circulation between port facilities and to safely accommodate these planned increases in truck traffic.

Funding awarded under the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) grant programs would support PhilaPort's efforts to improve the road network. These improvements would enhance access to I-95/I-76 for the Southport Marine Terminal, increase the capacity of Port access driveways, increase connectivity to intermodal centers and other Port facilities, and provide sufficient queuing space at processing centers and gate entrances.

The enhanced access and increased efficiency of operations will ensure the Port remains a vital economic engine for the Greater Philadelphia region and the Northeast. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Wonderling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Robert Wonderling
President & CEO